

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

20 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Agreement for Management of National
Reconnaissance Program

1. The enclosed agreement is a new version which has been revised in accordance with our discussion of 19 March. I have discussed this with Dr. Charyk who generally concurs and believes that it is a good working document on which to develop the specific plans for the National Reconnaissance Office. I made it clear to him that although the document does not specify that he will be the Director that this is our intention.

2. He concurred in the philosophy that both the Director and the Deputy Director should be involved in the advance planning and that one Agency or the other should be given primary responsibility for all approved projects. We discussed briefly the following tentative assignment [redacted]

Central Intelligence Agency - OXCART and CORONA and future truly covert satellite projects.

(S)
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Attachment:
20 March Draft Agreement

DD/R:HS: [redacted]

*2 - NRO working file
*3 - DDR Projects Chrono

*1 - Noted By DCI + fwd AC/DDP
26 Mar. 62

OSD and NRO have no objection to declassification and release.

OSD review(s) completed.

75-155848

20 March 1962

AGREEMENT

Management of the National Reconnaissance Program

This paper outlines the agreement between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency for establishing a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), and for dealing both with the management and operation of this program and the handling of the intelligence product of the program on a covert basis.

1. The NRP will consist of all satellite and overflight reconnaissance projects whether overt or covert. It will include all such efforts as photo-graphic projects for intelligence, geodesy and mapping purposes, and electronic signal collection projects for electronic signal intelligence and communications intelligence resulting therefrom.

2. There will be established on a covert basis a National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to manage this program. This office shall be under the direction of a Director and Deputy Director, one being appointed by the Department of Defense and the other by the Central Intelligence Agency. The Department of Defense representative shall be the Under Secretary of the Air Force, and the Deputy Director (Research) (DD/R) shall act for the Central Intelligence Agency. The NRO will include a small special staff whose personnel will be drawn from the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency and assigned on a full-time basis to appropriate positions within the office.

3. The NRO will have responsibility for the planning, development, and monitoring of all elements of the National Reconnaissance Program. Within this Program prime responsibility and authority for all aspects of each individual project will be specifically assigned to either the Department of Defense or the Central Intelligence Agency by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence acting jointly upon recommendation of the Director and Deputy Director, NRO. All advance planning and new projects will be coordinated with both the Director and Deputy Director of the NRO.

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4. Decisions of the National Reconnaissance Office will be implemented and its management of the National Reconnaissance Program made effective: within the Department of Defense, by the exercise of the authority delegated to the Under Secretary of the Air Force; within the Central Intelligence Agency, by the Deputy Director (Research) in the performance of his presently assigned duties. The Under Secretary of the Air Force will be designated Special Assistant for Reconnaissance to the Secretary of Defense and delegated full authority in this area.

5. Within the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force will be the operational agency for management and conduct of the NRP, and will conduct this program through use of streamlined special management procedures involving direct control from the office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force to Reconnaissance System Project Directors in the field, without intervening reviews or approvals. Overriding security considerations may dictate that the management and conduct of individual projects or elements thereof be assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency as the operational agency.

6. Within the Central Intelligence Agency the Deputy Director (Research) will be the operational element responsible for management and conduct of the NRP. The DD/R will conduct this program through the use of special Agency procedures and will utilize whatever elements of the Agency are required for its successful prosecution.

7. A Technical Advisory Group for the NRO will be established.

8. A uniform security control system will be established for the total program by the NRO. The Central Intelligence Agency shall provide the major inputs to all security aspects of those programs under the National Reconnaissance Office. Products from the various programs will be available to all users designated by the United States Intelligence Board.

9. The NRO will be directly responsive to, and only to, the photographic and electronic signal collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board.

10. The NRO will develop suitable cover plans and public information plans, in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, to reduce potential political vulnerability of these programs. In regard to satellite systems, it will be necessary to apply the revised public information policy to other non-sensitive satellite projects in order to insure maximum protection.

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11. The Director and Deputy Director of the NRO will establish detailed working procedures to insure that the particular talents, experience and capabilities within the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency are fully and most effectively utilized in this program.

12. Management control of the field operations of various elements of the program will be exercised directly, in the case of the Department of Defense, from the Under Secretary of the Air Force to the designated project officers for each program and, in the case of the Central Intelligence Agency, from the Deputy Director (Research) to the appropriate elements of the Central Intelligence Agency. Major program elements and operations of the NRO will be reviewed on a regular basis and as special circumstances require by the Special Group under NSC 5412.

JOHN A. McCONE
Director of Central Intelligence

ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Attachment:
Organization Chart

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION

NRO

